

Wherwell Parish Council

A meeting took place in the Village Hall on **12th January 2009**.

1. Present: Cllrs J Andrews (Chairman), S Hutton, L Broadbent, G Hampson, S Shean, S Horne, L Blakemore (Clerk) and 3 members of the public, HCC Cllr Gibson arrived at 8.30pm

Apologies: Cllr Bryant

2. Approval of Minutes of meeting held on 10th November 2009

These were agreed and signed as an accurate record.

Matters Arising

- **Section 106 Funding** – a meeting took place with TVBC Officer Graham Smith at the Playing Fields and it was agreed that the Council could access funding for the new tennis courts rather than rabbit proof fencing.
- **Andover Bus Station** – was contacted and they could not explain why the No 99 bus was not on the indicator board at the Station but this would be rectified.
- **Mill Close lay by** – despite considerable research it is still not clear who is responsible for it and who can therefore reasonably park there. As it is an unadopted road neither the Council nor Highways are responsible.
- **Fire Service Presentation** – this was held in Chilbolton and proved to be very useful for owners of thatched cottages. *Information Packs were provided at the meeting and the Clerk will arrange to distribute them to owners of thatched properties in the Village.*

3. Open Session

- There remains an ongoing concern about vehicles continuing to park close to the junction with High Street and Fullerton Road. The Council hopes that when work is undertaken on the new footpath from Chant Close the widening of the bend on Old Winchester Hill will slow vehicles and increase visibility.
- It was reported that the Church had received a grant of £160,000 from English Heritage for restoration of the roof and spire.

4. Declarations of Interest - None

5. Planning Matters

- **Tree Applications** – 09/02427/Treen: Springfield Fullerton Road and 09/02551/Treen: Riverside House Fullerton Road were inspected by Cllr Bryant who advised the Council there were no grounds for objections.
- Permission was granted for the Westover Farm extension.
- Permission granted for the new implement shed and re-location of the tennis courts at the Playing Fields
- A letter sent to the Planning Inspectorate regarding Windwhistle Cottage but outcome of appeal not yet known.
- Purver's Patch – the Council has been asked to provide historical information about the use of the land to assist the Law Enforcement officer in his determination of the condition of the plot. *Clerk to send report.*

6. Correspondence – since 10th November 2009

- Letter of thanks received from former Test Valley pupil Imogen Ramsey who won the Council sponsored prize for Food Technology.
- Communications received from HALC and NALC following HALC informing the latter of its intention to propose to HALC membership that it withdraws from the National Association. *A survey is awaited when Parish Councils will be asked for their views. Clerk will advise PC before completion of survey.*

7. Finance

- The bi-monthly monitoring report up to 31st December 2009 was tabled and attached to these minutes.
- The proposed budget for 2010/ 11 attached to these minutes was considered and the Council unanimously agreed the following:-
- **Grants to local organisations should remain at the same level. The Wherwell PCC be specifically asked to use their grant for maintenance purposes. Clerk to write letter with this request when sending out the grant.**
- **The Clerk's hours to remain at 5 hours per week and at the hourly rate of £8.60 (subject to any national revision).**
- **The precept for 2010/11 should remain at £7,500 as for the two previous years. Clerk to send form to TVBC**

8. District Council Matters – None to report

9. Village Repairs and Maintenance

- **Winchester Road (B3048 – B3420 junction) road sign on bridge has been reported but not yet repaired. Clerk to monitor.**
- **Church and Village Hall sign post** – new design was considered and agreed that the wording 'To the' was not necessary on the finger post. *Clerk to convey this to the PCC.* The sign post to be placed on the bank opposite the War Memorial.
- **Cockatrice** – Testway Housing are reconsidering their decision not to allow it to be placed on the Old Chapel. *Clerk to chase up the officer concerned. Cllr Bryant to provide costings.*
- **New Grit Bin** – it was unanimously agreed to approach Hampshire Highways and ask them to locate a bin at the top of Church Street. *Clerk to action.*
- **Additional Street Lighting** – a proposal to seek additional lighting in the area of the telephone box in the High Street was considered but the Council unanimously agreed that this was not required.

10. Traffic and Parking Issues

- **Drainage work** – the Council noted significant improvements to the drainage of surface water following work undertaken in Fullerton Road and on the hairpin bend on Old Winchester Hill.
- **Chant Close Footpath** – the cost quoted to the Council does include the retaining wall to be built on the White Lion boundary. Negotiations are continuing with HCC. *Cllr Andrews to lobby Testway Housing for support with funding.*
- **Damaged Bollard** - on cobbled area at top of High Street has now been repaired.

11. Housing – nothing to report

12. Parish Organisations

- **Village School** – closed for two days following heavy snow
- **Village Hall** – nothing to report
- **Playing Fields** - £1,500 was raised following the Christmas Grotto event held at Wyvale Garden Centre in December.
- **Play Area Update** – E-mail letter received from Vicky Trentham and 47 signatories on 3rd December. A comprehensive reply was sent on 12th December 2009 indicating the amendments made to the concerns raised. Both letters are attached to these minutes. A definitive plan has now been agreed with HCC and work should commence as soon as weather permits. Leisure Logs have been commissioned to provide the equipment.
- **Parish Church** – now that a substantial grant has been awarded it is hoped the roof and spire will be restored within two years.

13. Special Projects

- The Council is keen to improve the stretch of track from Blacksmith/ New Barn Lane to Wherwell School to make it more ‘walker friendly’. The track is leased to Lord Camden and there may be problems with regard to him agreeing to this as it there would likely be legal implications. *Cllr Shean agreed to speak to Lord Camden to see if there was any way forward.*
- The Council is actively pursuing the idea of producing illustrated leaflets and map orientation boards for local walks. Phil Jennison is assisting with this and application forms for grants have been received from HCC Countryside Access Forum. Part of the project will need to identify initially up to 6 walks with an appropriate commentary for each. In addition the Council will consider way marks and finger posts to be placed strategically along the routes as well as some rustic seating. *Cllr Andrews to continue research and progress the project and report back at next meeting.*

14. Parish Administration

- **Telephone Kiosk** – *Clerk continuing to chase BT about adopting the box in the High Street.*
- **Mobile Phone Survey** – *Cllr Hutton agreed to look into a device that might improve reception for residents using broadband.*
- **Website** – this remains unsatisfactory. *Cllr Hutton to speak again to the domain holder to see if the site can be improved.*
- **Date of next meeting** – 9th March 2010 at 7pm.

Cllr Andrews thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions and closed the meeting at 9pm.